Some Things the Almighty Does.

May 23, 1937.

Mtt,6:28-29 Look how the lilies of the field grow; they neither toil nor spin, and yet, I tell you, even Solomon in all his grandeur was never robed like one of these.

Jas.1:11 for the rich will pass away like the flower of the grass- up comes the sun with the scorching wind and withers the grass, its flower drops off, and the splendor of it is ruined: so shall the rich fade away amid their pursuits.

INTRO: They say a woman has a right to change her mind& So have I a right to change the topic from the one announced in the Reporter.

This Spring season I've become much interested in flowers, both wild and cultivated. This a.m. I shall speak upon two t exts- read.

GOD SAYS IT WITH FLOWERS.

Mtt.6:28-29, JAMES ~~ØNØ~~:1:11

First text taken From Sermon on Mount-calling attention to the wonderful beautty with which God has clothed the flowers, implying that if God loks aft after the flowers which are so frail and which bloom but for a day, He will surely clothe and feed us-His own children. For a man to be so anxious abottt his existance- his ~~appearance~~/ clothing and eating etc., ~~to~~ as to the neglect of his life- his character and relation to God and man- is utter folly.

The second text taken from James points out the frailty of man in terms of the frailty of flowers.

Not only were the flowers as messengers from God to Jesus and James, but they bring to every thotful person lessons which our Creator would have us learn.

I. Flowers remind us that God is Creator ~~with divine power.~~ and Maker.

Man can improve upon the form and color of existing flowers, but he cannot create one, no, not even the seed of one. exist

Man can ~~take~~ existing forces but he cannot creat them, he can discover those already in existance, but he cannot create them.

It is said that man makes laws. This is not true. God has made all the law there is. Man discovers the laws of God and adapts them to his needs and uses as they arise from time to time. The Bridges

II. Flowers tell us somewhat of the character of God- his conception of beauty, utility and adaptability.

1. God's sense of beauty revealed in flowers.

Wonderful colorings and designs. The most gorgeous designs and colorings of man are but imitations of God's flowers.

2. This vegetation of earth, which we trample under foot ad destroy so readily serves a great purpose in God's scheme of things. It makes animal life possible, furnings it with food, oxigen and ozone.

Every little flower, every little blade of grass is doing its bit towards making it possible for us to live.

3. Then think how God has made it possible for flowers to bloom everywheres- in the valleys and on the highest mountain tops. In marshes and swamps, also

Vacaville, Calif., June 12, 1926.

Dear Mrs. Fleischner,

Here is a check to cover another moth's care of Mrs& Coats

in the arid regions, in places where it seems that nothing could ever grow. The adaptability of flowers to all conditions of climate and soil is one of the wonders of God. Man, likewise, has to adapt himself to all sorts of conditions and situations.

We establish ourselves in fixed ways, and grow to think that we could not possibly live otherwise. We think out our beliefs and creeds, then let them set, like cement, and ever after claiming that there are no other beliefs and creeds than our own.

How contrary to God's ways man is prone to be! We need to learn the lesson of the flowers in their power to adapt themselves over and over again.

The blind fish in Mammoth cave. When man begins to live according to a fixed philosophy of life or a set creed to the exclusion of recognizing any further truth as coming either to himself or found in anybody else, he is living in a Mammoth Cave, declaring to thw world that his own circumscribed darkness is the only light in the the world.

The City of God has twelve gates. Humanity is traveling Godward and is coming from all directions and from out of varying conditions. As the Jews of old once traveled from all directions towards Jerusalem, so God's children scattered the world over in various forms and limitations of beliefs and understanding, are traveling towards the Kingdom of heaven, towards God s reign of goodness, justice, liberty, peace, good will and brotherly love which He has prepared for us.

III. The flowers teach us the lesson of God's providence. God who gives the flowers life will certainly give them care as well. Likewise God who gives us being will look after our wants.

When we all obey God's laws for us, laws that have been designed for our good, we shall find that there is plenty of everything for everybody. Some day, with but a fraction of the work and effort it takes now, all of God's children of earth will be adequately clothed andfed.

IV. Flowers teach us the lesson o f frailty. James emphasizes the lesson by comparing even the rich man to the frail grass of the field which lives but for a day.

How we cling to earthly existance, and yet how we ignore it! Some even go so far as to deny it! But the flowers unite with our own humanexperience to tell us

3. that afterall we are but dust and unto dust we must return, so far as our physical existance is concerned.

What a fuss we make over our clothes and eats, over our business affairs and social affairs when these are the very things that perish, that do not last. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

V. Flowers teach us the dependence ~~and~~ of all life. Flowers borrow color and fragrance from one another, and when combined give their plwasing effects. Mass flowers in our modern gardens. The masses of wild flowers- how gorgeous their coloring effects! God did not make man to live unto himself alone- he made men to live together. En masse, men find themselves and work out their true character. Thru co-operation we accomplish our greatest good and reach our highest levels of being.

Conclusion- Shall we not regard, then, the flowers as God's thots of tender and loving care on our behalf? As the angels on our ladders to heaven ever ascending and descending; as the adornments to the entrance into the very heart of the Infinite whose very beauty lures us into our Father's house where all the good t things of eternal life are to be found?

VI. Flowers suggest immortality. As perishable & frail as flowers are - they persist - they continue to grow & bloom. As Jamie we think them dead & gone, but somehow they reappear. The snow-ball plant.

Jan not half so worried about our departed loved ones as to whether they are still living as we are over the still living ones as to whether they are after all-dead